

THE INDIAN'S LAMENT

HE MOURNS FOR THE VANISHED HAPPINESS OF HIS RACE.

A Chippewa Talks Familiarly of the Customs of His Tribe—He Feels That the Whites Did the Indian Grievous Wrong. The Paradise That Is Gone.

"Before the white men came we were men," said a Chippewa friend. These people look back upon their past as upon a lost paradise, in which there were happiness and innocence. They repudiate the descriptions of them written by white historians as the work of enemies, seeking to justify cruelties and wrongs. "Our fathers always did what was right, and they punished bad men. They were kind and true to their friends and terrible only to their enemies. We were great warriors, and we fought for our own a long time. It was not the white men's arms, but their vices, which ruined us."

"What makes you think that the old times were so much better? You have good laws, no wars, and the government will not let you go hungry. Is not this better than the old precarious and dangerous way of living?"

"We did not go hungry. We had more than we wanted. You can see for yourself what we had from what is left after so much destruction. There was no end to the deer, moose, caribou, beaver, lynx and all the smaller fur bearers, and as for the fish, you said there was no fun catching them when you came, they were too plenty—trout, bass, pike, pickerel, sturgeon—the waters swarmed with them. Then look at the wild rice, nuts, blueberries, wild plums—oceans of them. And then we had cornfields, and for smoking the kinnikinnick. The plains were black with buffalo. We had no hard work to do. What we did was manly sport, while it provided us with food and clothing. And then we were free, the freest people in the world, with a whole continent in which to enjoy it. We are not now what we were. Our people have become drunkards, beggars and cowards. The white man has destroyed us, along with everything else. I see that you have among your photographs the picture of a Chippewa grave. That is the grave of the last of the Five Brothers, great warriors. You may say that is the grave of the last of the Chippewas, because what were left after the Seven Brothers and the Five Brothers were no longer true specimens of our great and noble people. The Seven Brothers were Tecumseh's best men. They were known all over the Mississippi valley, and the Five Brothers, who came after them, were as good. They adopted me when my father died. The last one died 30 years ago, a very old man."

"I suppose you think the Seven Brothers made a president of the United States because he beat them at Tippecanoe?"

"Yes, they made two, and the Cherokees made two. The white men thought it was a great thing when, four or five to one, they could whip an Indian, and they made heroes of those who did it. That is what the white man thought of the Indian."

"What about your sign language and picture writing?"

"That is nearly forgotten. Only a few know anything about it, and they are old men. The sign language was what deaf and dumb people have, only it was simpler, and all the tribes understood it. For example, if you came a stranger to a tepee of a village, a stamp of the foot on the ground meant that you were welcome—two or three stamps, that you were very welcome. Hunting signals were made with the hands. Four fingers and the thumb down meant a bear—with the thumb up a deer. If a lynx or other climber, climbing signs. If the animal were running, the hand with fingers down made bounding motions. If a man, the forefinger was held up. If the man were hiding, the finger was closed down to the hand. Picture writing was done on bark and was a map with various signs and animals here and there upon it. A circle meant a yell—by which the reader was instructed to call when he reached a certain point."

"You had a freemasonry for your families, did you not?"

"Yes, I can recognize a relative, though I never met him before. The use for this has died out, but we cannot give it to any one not entitled to it."

"What was your totem?"

"The alligator. The alligator can live in the water and on the land. He lives to be very old. It means long life and good luck in hunting and fishing. It was the totem of the Five Brothers, and they gave it to me when they adopted me."

My friend thinks that the Indians would have developed civilization by this time if they had been let alone. They were already cultivators of the soil and were no longer nomadic. One element of their success in war was their endurance and speed on foot. When he was a youth, he led a dog team on the snow 65 miles in one day. He walked from the St. Croix to Bayfield, 72 miles, in 28 hours, and this was not exceptional among them. The suddenness of attack and swiftness in retreat rendered them the most difficult native people ever conquered. But their paradise is gone.—Chicago Interior.

A witty Frenchman said, "Only death is an excuse for not keeping a dinner engagement, and even then a polite man would send the undertaker to apologize for him."

When a man marries he fully intends to be No. 1 in the family, but often the full point drops out and he lapses into "no one."

Spain, Italy, Sweden, Hanover, Russia, Austria and Turkey receive daily weather reports from Paris and London.

Arabia was so called from its inhabitants, the Arabs.

Prepared to Die.

"There she lay," says the sensational writer, "there on the floor, breathing out her life in short pants."

She must have been a lady bicyclist in up to date garb.—Spare Moments.

Military Pigeons.

There are on an average 200 carrier pigeons officially kept in every German fortress.

Shippers of Live Poultry.

Shippers should see that the coops are in good condition before using, so that they are not liable to come apart while in transit, as they are roughly handled sometimes. The coops should be high enough to allow whatever kind of poultry is shipped room to stand up. Low coops should not be used, it not alone being cruel, but a great deal of poultry is lost every year by suffocation. Coops should not be overcrowded. In shipping hens and roosters they should be kept separate. Nothing depreciates the value of a fine coop of hens as much as to have a number of old cocks among them. Shippers often wonder why they don't get the highest market price for their stock. In most cases this is the reason. Good stock always commands a quick sale at best prices.—Prairie Farmer.

EQUITABLE CO-OP. STORES . . .

Corner First South and Richards Streets.

Biggest Bargain Sale Ever Known Now On.

Bargains in our Dry Goods Dept.

Doctor Warner's Corsets,	49 cts. per pr.
3½ yards long nice white and cream	
Lace Curtains,	\$1.00 per pr.
Home-made Woolen Yarns, all colors,	69 cts per lb.
Our Own Brand Carpet Warp,	\$1.00 per bunch
Best quality Table Oil Cloths,	19 cts per yd.
Utica C Sheetting,	4½ "
Fine quality Check Gingham,	4½ "
Fine quality all colors Calicos,	5 "
Fine quality Dress Cambrics,	5 "
Patent Spring Roller Window Blinds,	
all complete for	19 cts
See our Heavy Canton Flannel, 10 cts	
yard, very heavy.	
350 pieces assorted size Ribbon, all	
silk,	5 and 10 cts yd.
Fine quality Black Cashmere, double	
fold,	19 and 24 cts yd.
Black Germantown Yarn,	69 cts per lb.
Home-made 2 yd. wide Linsey, regular	
price 90 cts, now	59 cts
Pink Guineahead Napped Flannel,	8½ cts per yd.
Indianhead Sheetting,	15 yds. for \$1.00
Best quality Spool Cotton,	3 for 10 cts

Bargains in our Grocery Department.

No. 1 Island Rice, 18 pounds,	\$1.00
Japan Tea, per package,	.10
English Breakfast Tea, per pound,	.25
Good quality Canned Salmon,	.10
Best quality Cheese, per pound,	.12½
21 one-pound bars of Laundry Soap,	1.00
30 pounds Oatmeal,	1.00
25 pounds White Navy Beans,	1.00
Dry Salt Bacon, per pound,	.84
Hams, per pound,	.11½
Loose Coffee, Mocca and Java, per lb. 20c and	.25
Finest quality Honey, per pound,	.64
Mustard Sardines, large can,	.10
Domestic Sardines, large can,	.05
Matches, 21 boxes for	.25
Finest Smoking Tobacco, per pound	.25
Kingsford Starch, 1 pound package,	.84
Canned Corn,	.10
Baking Powder, 1 pound cans,	.25

Bargains in our Clothing Department.

Men's Suits Clothes, Black all wool Cheviots,	\$6.90
" " " " Finest Clay Worsted,	10.90
Young Men's Suits Clothes, 15, 16, 17, 18	
and 19 years old,	3.25
Boys' Suits Clothes, 4 to 14 years,	.75
Men's fine Black Cloth Overcoat Mackintoshes,	5.00
Boys' Overcoat, with cape, all wool,	1.75
Men's fine Pants. See them, 90c, \$1.10, \$1.25, \$1.39	
Boys' Knee Pants,	19, 24 and .29
Men's Bib Overalls,	.49
Boys' " " " "	.39
Childs' " " " "	.29
Men's Underwear,	35 cts suit
" " " " all wool,	75 cts suit
Satchels, Valises and Trunks, from	49 cts up
Men's Silk Embroidered Suspenders,	19 cts pair
Men's Silk Suspenders, very best made,	39 "
Men's 4-ply Linen Collars,	10 cts
" " " " Celluloid Collars,	10 cts
" " " " Celluloid Cuffs,	15 cts
" " " " Cotton Socks, good,	5 cts per pair
" " " " Cotton Socks, extra good,	7½ cts per pair
" " " " Heavy wool mixed Lace Overshirts,	49 cts
" " " " mixed cotton Overshirts,	19 cts
" " " " Best quality Switz Conde Underwear,	\$1.75 suit
" " " " White Laundried Shirts, 49, 59, and 69 cts	
Boys' Heavy Duck Waists, never wear out,	39 cts
" " " " Indigo Blue Waists, assorted sizes,	19 cts

Bargains in our Shoe Department.

Men's fine Congress Shoes,	\$1.29 and \$1.39
" " " " fine Lace Shoes,	\$1.29 and 1.39
" " " " heavy Oil Grain Shoes,	1.49
" " " " heavy Split Grain Shoes, double sole,	1.39
Boy's fine Congress Shoes,	1.24
Men's Hip Gum Boots, fine quality,	3.65
" " " " Knee Gum Boots,	2.49
" " " " Carpet Slippers,	.35
Ladies' Carpet Slippers,	.29

Our Shoes are the Best Make and we Guarantee them for wear.

Notice the Prices, the Goods speak for themselves